

March is INTERNATIONAL LITERACY Month

March is the month for us to assess the progress we have made with literacy projects in our communities during the year.

I have heard from a number of clubs over the past months about your progress and your plans. I am proud of District 7750's commitment to local schools, school districts, nonprofit reading organizations, Head Starts, adult education centers, and libraries and your willingness to support literacy growth with volunteering and books.

An outstanding effort that is taking place in Spartanburg and Anderson rotaries is the Dolly Parton Imagination Library where children receive monthly books in their homes in their first five years of life. Other clubs are exploring getting involved with First Book. Several clubs are giving books to child care centers and elementary schools on a weekly basis while honoring their Rotary guest speakers with book-plates in books they donated. The Pleasantburg Rotary Club has practiced this for many years. A number of clubs support the Dictionary Project. Many of you also collect and recycle gently used books to homes with no books through supporting Reading Book Distribution Parties or Community Book Sales.

In Greenville and Greenwood whole communities read together with Rotary funds contributions assisting.

Thank you for all you are doing to aid adult and children's learning as you support the parents, child care providers, teachers, and librarians who patiently help make learning to read possible.

Celebrate literacy month and pat yourselves on the back.

Partners in
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On the importance of reading and learning to read:

Emilie Buchwald: "Children are made readers on the laps of their parents."



Dr. Seuss: "The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Jacqueline Wilson: "I have this belief that children become readers before they can read. They become hooked on books because they were read aloud to as a child."

President Clinton on International Literacy Day, September 8th 1994:

"Literacy is not a luxury, it is a right and a responsibility. If our world is to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century we must harness the energy and creativity of all our citizens."



Learning To Succeed (1993): "All children must achieve a good grasp of literacy and basic skills early on as the foundation for learning throughout life."

Maya Angelou: "Any book that helps a child to form a habit of reading, to make reading one of his deep and continuing needs, is good for him."



May Ellen Chase: "There is no substitute for books in the life of a child."

Ezra Pound: "Properly, we should read for power. Man reading should be man intensely alive. The book should be a ball of light in one's hand."

Groucho Marx: "Outside of a dog, a man's best friend is a book. Inside of a dog it's too dark to read."